Roy Wilkins denies anti-King role

NEW YORK (AP) — Roy Wilkins, retired [illegible] the NAACP, says a report that he [illegible] with the FBI in a campaign to [illegible] Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. from the [illegible] the civil rights movement is [illegible] easy, a damn lie."

[illegible] was identified as the black leader [illegible] name was deleted from a Dec. 1, 1964, [illegible] that discussed an undercover [illegible] King.

[illegible] in a statement read by his wife, [illegible] "Every black person with any sense [illegible] Hoover was trying to [illegible] or destroy the movement for civil [illegible] through his attempt to discredit Dr. [illegible]

"[illegible] record of loyalty to my people and the [illegible] individual civil rights is open for [illegible] this stage in my life I don't [illegible] it."

Rev. Jesse Jackson also said that [illegible] not the FBI's contact in an effort [illegible] discredit Dr. King.

[illegible] national president of Operation [illegible] news reports identifying Wilkins as a contact in the [illegible] against Dr. King are the "latest in a long series of diversionary tactics used by the FBI to take the focus off itself.

"(We) choose to believe Roy Wilkins over the discredited (J. Edgar) Hoover and the FBI."

Sources quoted by various reports Tuesday said Wilkins was the man described by the FBI as a cooperative contact to help with discrediting Dr. King. Wilkins denied the allegation in 1975 testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee staff.

He said a memo written about a meeting between himself and FBI Assistant Director Cartha DeLoach was "self-serving and full of inaccuracies."

The newly declassified memo said an "ambitious" black leader was willing to work with the FBI to remove King from the national picture." Wilkins was identified in various accounts as being the mentioned leader.

Jackson said the Senate and Justice Department should investigate the FBI.

Roy Wilkins
... 'a damn lie'